

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating a hepatitis B virus infection, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of (-)-L- β -dioxolane-cytosine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the (-)-L- β -dioxolane-cytosine is administered in a dose of 1 to 100 mg/kg of body weight per day and said patient is a human.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the (-)-L- β -dioxolane-cytosine is administered in a dose of 2 to 50 mg/kg of body weight per day and said patient is a human.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the (-)-L- β -dioxolane-cytosine is administered in a dose of 2 to 10 mg/kg of body weight per day and said patient is a human.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering an anti-viral effective amount of adenine arabinoside or interferon α .